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P 251222Z JUL 06
FM AMEMBASSY DAKAR
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5846
INFO RUEHPNH/NVC PORTSMOUTH 0901
RUEHZK/ECOWAS COLLECTIVE
RUEHRB/AMEMBASSY RABAT 0769
RUEHCL/AMCONSUL CASABLANCA 0095

UNCLAS DAKAR 001780

SIPDIS

DEPT FOR CA/FPP
DEPT PLS PASS TO KCC
PARIS FOR DHS/ICE
ECOWAS POSTS FOR FRAUD PREVENTION MANAGERS

SIPDIS
SENSITIVE

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: [CVIS](#) [KFRD](#) [CPAS](#) [CMGT](#) [ASEC](#) [KSTC](#) [SG](#)
SUBJECT: IMPOSTERS CONTINUE TO EXPLOIT U.S. REFUGEE TRAVEL DOCUMENTS

REF: DAKAR 00403

SUMMARY

[¶1.](#) (SBU) Per reftel, airlines in Dakar continue to see genuine Refugee Travel Documents (I-571) issued to imposters. In the past three months, Senegalese immigration officials seized five Refugee Travel Documents from travelers denied boarding by South African Airways (SAA) because they appeared to have never lived in the U.S. A review of USCIS records indicate that the travelers, whose photos appear in the genuine Refugee Travel Documents, are not the persons granted asylum in the U.S. END SUMMARY.

[¶2.](#) (SBU) South African Airlines (SAA) has sought assistance from post regarding screening passengers who present Refugee Travel Documents (I-571) to board direct flights from Dakar to the U.S. According to SAA, approximately eight passengers per flight (there are 14 direct flights per week to the U.S.) currently present Refugee Travel Documents. SAA personnel deny boarding and refer approximately 50 percent of these passengers to Senegalese immigration officials because of suspicions that the travelers have never been to the U.S. Unfortunately, Senegalese immigration officials rarely seize the travelers' documents.

[¶3.](#) (SBU) Despite their reluctance to seize documents, Senegalese immigration authorities recently provided the Fraud Prevention Unit (FPU) with five Refugee Travel Documents taken from travelers denied boarding by SAA. The FPU, with the help of the DHS Forensic Laboratory, confirmed that all five Refugee Travel Documents were issued in the name of genuine refugees, but with photographs of imposters. Post already sent three of these documents to USCIS Accra; the last two will be forwarded to the USCIS Office of Fraud Detection.

[¶4.](#) (SBU) As a result of our feedback, SAA implemented a more vigorous pre-screening process and are seeing fewer travelers with Refugee Travel Documents. They reported that these travelers have started flying Royal Air Maroc (RAM), an airline known to have less stringent pre-screening requirements because it does not fly directly to the U.S. from Dakar.

COMMENT

¶5. (SBU) Genuine Refugee Travel Documents issued to imposters present difficulties for airline pre-screener since the only way to identify the imposters is through extensive interviews of the travelers. While the FPU can confirm identity easily through the DHS Forensic Laboratory, flights from Dakar depart in the middle of the night when airlines cannot contact the FPU to quickly confirm the identity of passengers. Also, given the reluctance of Senegalese immigration authorities to seize suspect documents, travelers denied boarding by SAA can simply try other airlines until they successfully board.

JACOBS